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## MRS. R. FLORENCE DENTON DUGAN. 1851—1916.

Miss R. Florence Denton was born in Canton Illinois, June 29, 1851, and departed this life at the home of her daughter in Springfield, Illinois, September 22, 1916, at 1:20 a. m., of

paralysis.

When a small child her parents moved to Wataga, Illinois, where she received her education in the public schools. When 16 years of age she engaged in school teaching, which profession she followed for five years. She had charge of the public school at Middletown, Illinois, where, on the 6th day of October, she met the Rev. J. Jay Dugan. It was his twentyfourth birthday, and the day of his first appearance as pastor of the Middletown circuit of the Illinois conference of the M. E. Church. Having work in common, these two young people were together much of the time, and they soon agreed to unite and work together the balance of their lives. So, on the 15th of February, 1873, they were united in marriage by the Rev. M. M. Davidson of the Illinois conference. ceremony was solemnized in the M. E. Church of Middletown, in the presence of the community.

More than forty-two beautiful years of unfailing love and devotion to her home and church has proven that Mr. Dugan made no mistake when he chose Miss Denton to be his life

partner in the work of the ministry of Jesus Christ.

She was especially gifted as a teacher and instructor of youth. It was her delight to form classes of children and youth and teach them in the fundamental teachings of Christianity. In different places she served as superintendent of the Sunday School with great efficiency and acceptability.

She was a great help to her husband in the work of the Gospel ministry, frequently leading the song service during a revival campaign, and working among the congregation and conducting many and many a penitent to the altar of prayer. She believed in the teaching and experience of Christian love and exemplified it in her life.

She was a devoted wife and mother. She loved her home and family. However humble, her home was her palace. She was the mother of four children. They are: Dr. W. J. Dugan, Paris, Illinois; Dr. J. C. Dugan, Dexter, Missouri; Dr. R. D. Dugan, Illiopolis, Illinois, and Mrs. Pearle D. Crenshaw, Springfield, Illinois. She taught them in the doctrines and faith of Christianity. It was her highest hope and constant prayer that they live true, godly lives. Her prayers and efforts have not been in vain. There are also five grand-children, two of whom she had the care of for the past eight years. Besides these, she leaves an only sister, Mrs. Mary E. Hamilton, of Galesburg, Illinois, and her much bereaved husband, J. Jay Dugan, a retired minister of the M. E. Church. She was loved and respected by all who knew her.

She had been in failing health the past few years. The beautiful, erect form began to fade and decline. In June, 1915, she was stricken with paralysis, and from then on fought a losing battle till the end came. The funeral was simple and brief, conducted by the Rev. W. A. Smith, of the Illinois conference, assisted by Rev. T. N. Ewing, her pastor, and Rev. A. B. Peck, pastor of Laurel M. E. Church of Springfield.

Interment was in Pleasant Plains (Illinois) cemetery. Her body lies beneath the sod, near the foot of the western slope of this beautiful burying ground, awaiting the call to the first resurrection.

She gave her whole life to the cause of humanity. She now rests from her labors, and her works do follow her. Peace to her ashes and undying memory to her beautiful christian character of sacrifice, devotion and love. Let Nature be kind to this place—the last resting place of my beloved.

May the shining of the sun be soft and bright; May the winter's blast be of few days and light. O ye rains, pat lightly this most holy mound, And ye winds, sough your sweetest o'er this ground.